GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2002
CULTIVATION OF ORGANIC HERBS
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board had taken initiatives for promoting cultivation of organic herbs in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details about the other parts of the States covered under the cultivation;

(d) whether the Board had launched a new scheme for supporting clinical trials of spices` products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. In the Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu, Spices Board had implemented a programme for bringing in area under cultivation of herbal spices like rosemary, thyme, oregano and parsley. Following initiatives have been taken for promotion of organic herbs:

- Establishment of vermicompost pits for production and organic manure

- Establishment of one dehydration unit and an oil extraction unit

- Development of consumer packs with eco friendly re-cycled paper for packaging the organic herbs

- Assisting NGOs for participation in fairs specialized in organic products

- Conducting training programmes for educating farmers and workers in organic farming of herbs

(c) : Farmers in Thalavadi of Erode District have also started cultivation of herbal spices like rosemary and thyme.Herbal spices in the area are marketed in form of oil.

(d) & (e) : Yes, Sir. Following programmes are conducted in this regard:

i) A cough candy and a paediatric carminative using ginger, pepper and cumin.
ii) Herbal tablets using fenugreek to cure diabetes and a garlic based anti fungal crÃ¨me.
iii) A new product developed from ginger exploring antigenotoxic properties

Under a loan scheme, Spices Boardsupports research and development organization to develop products based on nutritional, nutraceutical and medicinal value of spices. As per the scheme, 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of 20 lakhs is granted as loan based on valuation of the project proposal. Under this scheme, two projects are currently in operation:-

- Development of formulations using curcumin extracts for control of lipid profile and obesity. Spices based products for control and relief of rheumatoid arthritis, oseto arthritis and back pain and for relief from asthma.

- Development of non-traditional derivaties of spices by value addition from turmeric, black pepper, fenugreek and garlic.